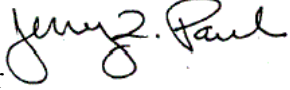




September 26, 2001

MEMORANDUM

To: Community Residential Care Facility Administrators

From: Jerry Paul, Director 
Division of Health Licensing

Subject: Tuberculin Skin Testing Requirements for Residents in Community
Residential Care Facilities

Regulation 61-84, Standards for Licensing Community Residential Care Facilities, Section 1101.B. states, "The admission physical examination shall include a two-step tuberculin skin test, as described in Section 1702, unless there is a documented previous positive reaction."

Section 1702.A. states, "Tuberculin skin testing, utilizing a two-step intradermal (Mantoux) method of five tuberculin units of stabilized purified protein derivative (PPD), is a procedure recommended by the CDC Guidelines for Preventing Transmission of Mycobacterium Tuberculosis in Healthcare Facilities to establish baseline status. The two-step procedure involves one initial tuberculin skin test with a negative result, followed 7-21 days later by a second test. It is permissible for a licensed nurse to perform the tuberculin screening."

Section 1702.B.3. states, "Residents shall have at least the first step within the period for completion of the admission physical examination as specified in Section 1101 (within 30 days prior to admission)."

To clarify questions about TB screening requirements for residents and to enforce standards that are reasonable and do not compromise the health, safety, and well-being of residents of Community Residential Care Facilities, the Department is issuing the following guidance:

- (1) For facilities that currently have residents admitted prior to July 27, 2001, who have not been tested for TB, the facility shall have each of these residents screened using the two-step intradermal (Mantoux) methods as described in Section 1702. This screening should be performed as soon as practical to establish a baseline status but **may be performed as late as the resident's next annual physical**. Note: Annual TB screening of residents is not required in Regulation 61-84.

- (2) For new resident admissions after July 27, 2001, the resident shall have a two-step tuberculin skin test completed prior to admission as described in Sections 1101.B. and 1702. The facility must have at least the first step of the two-step tuberculin skin test administered and read before admission. This should be done within 30 days prior to admission. The Department will allow facilities to admit residents with only the first step being read prior to admission as long as the second step is completed within seven (7) days after the admission date. If a new resident has previously had either a single-step or two-step tuberculin skin test within twelve (12) months prior to admission, the facility must see that the new resident has an additional single-step administered and read within 30 days prior to admission.

If you have any questions, you may call Randy Clark at (803) 545-4230.

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